

CLAIMS AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently Amended) An Expandable intragastric balloon intended to be implanted inside the stomach of a patient so as to reduce the volume of the stomach in order to treat obesity, which balloon (1) is equipped with at least one first flexible pocket (2) capable of changing from a folded position to an expanded position by introducing an inflation fluid into the first pouch (2), wherein said expanded position gives the balloon its functional form, ~~characterised in that it comprises~~ means for ballasting (3) said balloon, enabling the balloon (1) to be substantially weighted so as to improve ~~its~~ the positioning of the balloon in the stomach.

2. (Currently Amended) The intragastric balloon ~~according to~~ of claim 1, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the ballasting means (3) are structurally integrated with the balloon (1).

3. (Currently Amended) The intragastric balloon ~~according to~~ of claim 1 ~~or 2, characterised in that wherein~~ the ballasting means (3) are located inside said first pouch (2).

4. (Currently Amended) The intragastric balloon ~~according to one of claims 1 to 3, characterised in that wherein~~ the ballasting means (3) comprise at least one solid dense body (3S) capable of forming a ballast.

5. (Currently Amended) The intragastric balloon ~~according to~~ of claim 4, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the ballasting means (3) comprise a plurality of solid dense bodies (3S).

6. (Currently Amended) The intragastric balloon ~~according to~~ of claim 5, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the solid dense bodies (3S) are connected to one another so as to limit their relative mobility.

7. (Currently Amended) The intragastric balloon ~~according to~~ claim 6, ~~characterised in wherein that~~ the ballasting means (3) comprise spacers, arranged between two consecutive solid bodies (3S) so as to prevent shocks.

8. (Currently Amended) The intragastric balloon ~~according to one of claims 1 to 3, characterised in that wherein~~ the ballasting means (3) include at least one absorbent body (3A) capable of forming a ballast in the presence of moisture.

9. (Currently Amended) The intragastric balloon ~~according to~~ of claim 8, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the absorbent body (3A) is formed by a sponge or a foam.
10. (Currently Amended) The intragastric balloon ~~according to~~ of claim 9, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the sponge is made of a polyvinyl alcohol-based material.
11. (Currently Amended) The intragastric balloon ~~according to~~ of claim 8, ~~characterised in that wherein the~~ ballasting means (3) include a plurality of absorbent bodies (3A) formed by super-absorbent particles of sodium polyacrylate polymer.
12. (Currently Amended) The intragastric balloon ~~according to~~ of claim 1 ~~or 2~~, ~~characterised in that it includes~~ further comprising a second flexible pouch (5), said second flexible pouch being arranged so that it contains the first flexible pouch (2), with the ballasting means (3) being contained in said second flexible pouch (5).
13. (Currently Amended) The intragastric balloon ~~according to one of~~ claims 1 ~~to 12~~, ~~characterised in that it further~~ comprising at least one sheath (8) capable of containing the ballasting means (3).
14. (Currently Amended) The intragastric balloon ~~according to~~ of claim 13, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the sheath (8) comprises two ends (8A, 8B), which sheath (8) is secured to the balloon (1) near at least one of said ends (8A, 8B).
15. (Currently Amended) The intragastric balloon ~~according to~~ of claim 14, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ one end of the sheath (8) extends outside the balloon (1) to form a pull tab (9).
16. (Currently Amended) The intragastric balloon ~~according to~~ of ~~any one of~~ claims 13, ~~to 15~~, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the sheath (8) is deformable.
17. (Currently Amended) The intragastric balloon ~~according to~~ of ~~any one of~~ claims 13, ~~to 16~~, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the sheath (8) is made of a biocompatible material.

18. (Currently Amended) The intragastric balloon according to any one of claims 1, to 17, characterised in that wherein the surface of the first pouch (2) is coated, at least partially, with an impermeable parylene coating.

19. (Currently Amended) The intragastric balloon according to of claim 1, characterised in that wherein the inflation fluid is a gas.

20. (Currently Amended) The intragastric balloon according to of claim 19, characterised in that wherein the ballasting means (3) include a liquid (11) intended to be introduced into the first pouch (2) so as to form a ballast.

21. (Currently Amended) The use of an absorbent body (3A) to form a ballast for an expandable intragastric balloon (1).

22. (Currently Amended) The use according to of claim 21, characterised in that wherein the absorbent body (3A) comprises a super-absorbent material based on sodium polyacrylate.

23. (Currently Amended) The use according to of claim 21, characterised in that wherein the absorbent body (3A) comprises a sponge or a foam.

24. (Currently Amended) The use according to of claim 23, characterised in that wherein the material forming the sponge comprises polyvinyl alcohol.

25. (Currently Amended) The use of solid dense bodies (3S) as ballasting means for or in an expandable intragastric balloon (1).

26. (Currently Amended) The use according to claim 25, characterised in that wherein the solid dense bodies (3S) comprise tungsten.

27. (New) The intragastric balloon of claim 2, wherein the ballasting means are located inside said first pouch.

28. (New) The intragastric balloon of claim 2, further comprising a second flexible pouch, said second flexible pouch being arranged so that it contains the first flexible pouch, with the ballasting means being contained in said second flexible pouch.